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Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 CU-04 INR-07 NSAE-00 AID-05 USIE-00
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TAGS: AORG, UNESCO, OCON

SUBJECT:UNESCO SPECIAL COMMITTEE, SEPTEMBER 5-9: ITEM 5.1.1
SOVIET REPORT ON SOCIAL SCIENCES

REF: PARIS 25392

1. FOLLOWING GUIDANCE FOR SUBJECT ITEM IS COOPERATIVE EFFORT OF NATIONAL COMMISSION AND IO/UNESCO.

2. UPBEAT NOTE STRUCK BY SOVIET REPORT ON FIRST PAGE (ESPECIALLY PARAS 3 AND 4) IS WELCOMED BY U. S. WE, OF COURSE, PLAYED KEY, IF NOT DECISIVE ROLE AT 18TH AND 19TH
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GENERAL CONFERENCES IN OBTAINING HIGHER PRIORITY CONSIDERATION FOR SOCIAL SCIENCES AND IN URGING CREATION OF SEPARATE SECTOR HEADED BY ADG.

3. WE CAN ALSO AGREE WITH MUCH OF USUAL SOVIET RHETORIC (WHICH, ALSO AS USUAL, IS NOT DIRECTLY RELEVANT TO ISSUE AT HAND) CALLING FOR STRENGTHENING PEACE IN GENERAL AND

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DETENTE IN PARTICULAR, CONDEMNING RACISM, ESCHEWING USE OF VIOLENCE IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND EMPHASIZING NEED FOR MORE TRUST, HUMANITY, CONSIDERATION, TOLERANCE, COOPERATION AND RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS (ESPECIALLY IN RELATION TO STATUS OF WOMEN). REGRETABLY, THE REPORT SOMETIMES SUCCUMBS TO TEMPTATION TO POLEMICIZE (PARA 37 IS ONE EXAMPLE), BUT OVERALL SHOWS COMMENDABLE RESTRAINT AND BUSINESSLIKE APPROACH.

4. AT SAME TIME, THERE ARE A NUMBER OF POINTS WITH WHICH WE MUST TAKE ISSUE OR WHICH WE BELIEVE HAVE BEEN IN-ADEQUATELY STRESSED:

(A) WE ENTIRELY AGREE (LAST SENTENCE, PARA 26) THAT PEACE AND HUMAN RIGHTS ARE INDIVISIBLE. BUT TALKING ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS AND FORMULATING NEW PRESCRIPTIONS ARE NOT ENOUGH. UNESCO SHOULD CONCENTRATE ON STUDY OF PROGRAMS, INSTITUTIONS, TECHNIQUES AND PROCESSES DESIGNED TO TRANSLATE RHETORIC OF INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS NORMS INTO REALITY. IT SHOULD SEEK TO ASSESS EXISTING INSTITUTIONS AND PRACTICES TO SEE HOW THEY CAN BE IMPROVED, WHILE SUGGESTING NEW APPROACHES AND MODELS. A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION WOULD BE TO "PROMOTE MEASURES TO IMPROVE EDUCATION IN HUMAN RIGHTS" (PARA 37), AND WE WELCOME THE SOVIET CALL FOR THIS INITIATIVE. THE SOCIAL SCIENCES SHOULD STUDY THE EFFECTIVENESS OF EXISTING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION AS A BASIS FOR PROPOSIDG TECHNIQUES FOR IMPROVEMENT. THE CONFERENCE THAT UNESCO IS SPONSORING NEXT YEAR ON TEACHING HUMAN RIGHTS IS EXAMPLE OF KIND OF INITIATIVE THAT U. S. COMMENDS.

(B) THE REPORT SPEAKS OF NEGLECT WITH REGARD TO THE PROGRAM ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN BUT IGNORES THE 18TH GENERAL CONFERENCE'S RESOLUTION 16.1, WHICH WAS INITIATED BY THE UNITED STATES AND REPRESENTS A CRITICAL MILESTONE IN UNESCO'S EFFORTS TO MOBILIZE ITS RESOURCES IN ORDER TO DEAL MORE EFFECTIVELY WITH THIS IMPORTANT PROBLEM.

(C) THE REPORT ALSO IGNORES KEY RESOLUTIONS OF THE 19TH GENERAL CONFERENCE, AS WELL AS COMMISSION'S DISCUSSION OF THE PROGRAM. IT CALLS FOR CONCENTRATION WHILE MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS THAT WOULD INCREASE DIFFUSION AND FURTHER LACK OF FOCUS AND EMPHASIZES CENTRALIZED THEMES AND PROJECTS CONTRARY TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DE-CENTRALIZATION URGED BY MANY MEMBER STATES AND INCORPORAT-ED IN THE CANADIAN RESOLUTION 3.01.

(D) THE REPORT IGNORES THE SPECIAL TASK OF UNESCO,

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EMPHASIZED BY 19TH GENERAL CONFERENCE RESOLUTION 3.01, WHICH IS THE GROWTH OF SOCIAL SCIENCE RESOURCES AND FACILITIES, ESPECIALLY IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES,AND THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF GLOBAL SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION.

(E) THE REPORT IS INCONSISTENT WITH RESOLUTION 3.172 AND THE GENERAL CONFERENCE DISCUSSIONS WHICH DIRECTED THAT THE UNESCO PROGRAM IN PEACE RESEARCH SHOULD NOT INCLUDE SUBJECTS LIKE DISARMAMENT, THAT ARE COVERED BY OTHER UN AGENCIES; SHOULD REFLECT THE DIVERSITY OF UNESCO MEMBER STATES; SHOULD EMPHASIZE COOPERATION AMONG QUALIFIED ACADEMIC OR SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTIONS RATHER THAN GOVERN-MENTS AS THE INTERPEACE PROJECT HAD ORIGINALLY PROVIDED.

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(F) THE REPORT DOES NOT FULLY REFLECT 19TH GENERAL CONFERENCE RESOLUTION 3.173 REGARDING PROCEDURES AND INTENTIONS WITH REGARD TO A NEW DRAFT DECLARATION ON RACE AND RACIAL PREJUDICE.

(G) THE REPORT ALSO REITERATES SOVIET VIEWS ON THE USE OF THE WORD "TOLERANCE" (PARA 34), ALTHOUGH THERE WAS A LONG AND CONCLUSIVE DISCUSSION ON THIS MATTER AT THE GENERAL CONFERENCE WITH CLARIFICATION BY THE SECRETARIAT.

(H) THE REPORT RECOMMENDS A LARGER YOUTH PROGRAM WHILE IGNORING THE FACT THAT THIS WAS SERIOUSLY QUESTIONED AT THE 19TH GENERAL CONFERENCE. THE U. S. VIEW, EXPRESSED IN ITS REPLIES TO THE RECENT C/5 QUESTIONNAIRE (CL/2548), IS THAT YOUTH ACTIVITIES SHOULD BE PHASED OUT AS A SEPARATE SET OF PROJECTS. THE DISAPPOINTING PERFORMANCE OF THE YOUTH DIVISION IN THE UNESCO SECRETARIAT IS AT LEAST IN PART THE RESULT OF UNESCO'S UNCERTAINTY IN THIS AREA. THE ONE THING THAT IS CLEAR IS THAT UNESCO'S WHOLE APPROACH TO YOUTH NEEDS TO BE CAREFULLY AND CRITICALLY REASSESSED BY THE SOCIAL SCIENCE SECTOR.

5. ABOVE POSITIONS DRAW HEAVILY ON INPUT FROM DR. GENE LYONS AND ALSO FROM DR. THOMAS BUERGENTHAL OF U. S. NAT-IONAL COMMISSION'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS. CHRISTOHER

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